

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

A charge/deflecting electrode is provided on an orifice surface of an inkjet head near nozzle orifices formed in the orifice surface. A suction tube is pressed 5 against the orifice surface and the electrode to retain a space therebetween. When a negative pressure is generated in a suction hole of the suction tube, ink and foreign matter are sucked from the nozzle orifices. The space is asymmetric on left and right sides so the negative pressure 10 develops a whirlpool-shaped flow including a mixture of air and ink near the suction hole.